

I wish to go on record as opposing the proposal to expand the number of media outlets that can be owned by one entity. Diversity of news, views, and opinion can only be maintained by allowing numerous voices into the marketplace. Consolidation on the face of it militates against diversity. The argument that there are more media outlets available to the populace is specious. Many people have no access to Internet, satellite, or cable connections. Most people depend on their local TV, radio, and newspaper outlets for their view of the world. To allow one owner to gobble up vast quantities of media is to invite the bland sameness endemic to commercial radio today, where 2 or 3 companies own a majority of the stations. Consolidation threatens independent, localized news coverage. It flies in the face of the public service requirements owners owe for the use of the public spectrum. It is bad policy and should not be tolerated.